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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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29 September 1969

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Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014600090001-0

Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP79T00975A014600090001-0

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No. 0233/69
29 September 1969

Central Intelligence Bulletin

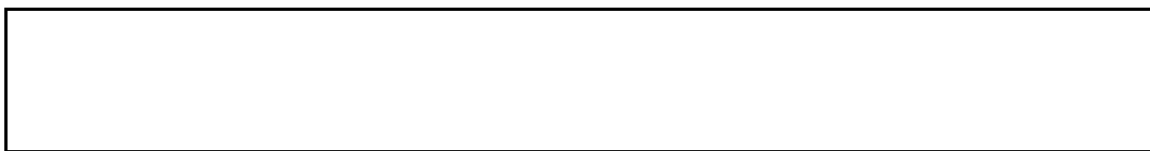
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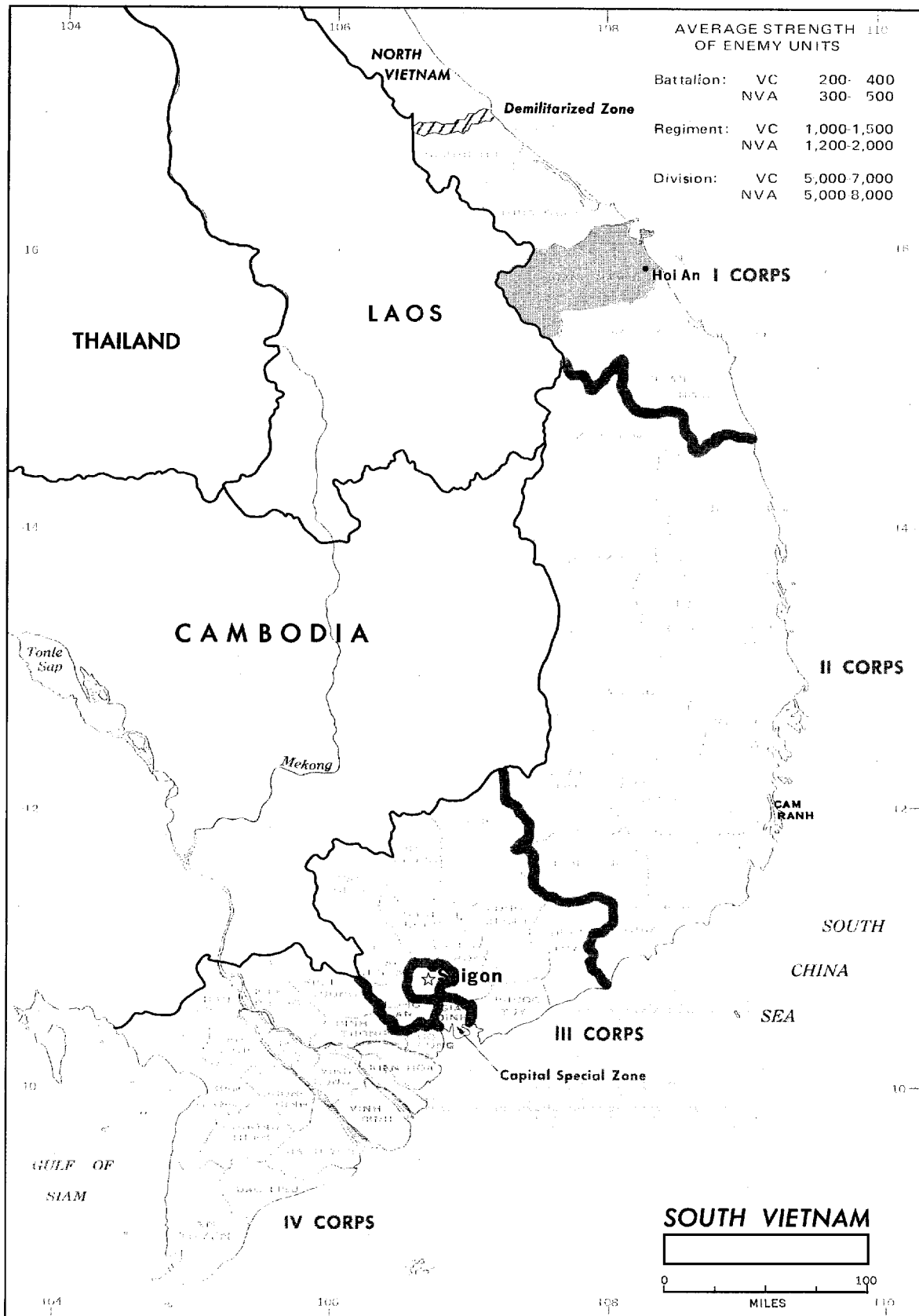
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[Vietnam: The reception accorded to a high-level North Vietnamese delegation in Peking and the propaganda treatment being given to a new Chinese aid agreement provide new evidence that North Vietnamese - Chinese relations are becoming somewhat warmer.

The North Vietnamese delegation headed by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong was met by high-ranking Chinese Communist officials, including Premier Chou En-lai, on arrival at the Peking airport on 27 September. The day before, the two countries announced a new agreement covering economic and military aid for 1970.

In their propaganda coverage of these two events, both countries lavish praise on the other, in marked contrast to last year's Chinese national day ceremonies, when the subject of Vietnam was virtually ignored by Chinese leaders.

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Enemy military activity in South Vietnam remained at a low level over the weekend. In the only significant enemy attack, the Communists fired ten mortar rounds into Hoi An city, the capital of Quang Nam Province.

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Czechoslovakia: The position of the party's ultraconservatives was strengthened by the results of the central committee plenum on 25-26 September, but Husak apparently still retains his control of the party.

The conservatives' strength in the central committee doubtless will increase as a result of the purge of 29 members of the committee. Included in the list of those reformers ousted were former foreign minister Hajek and one of the major targets of the extremists, Josef Smrkovsky. Smrkovsky will also lose his position as deputy chairman of the federal assembly.

Former party leader Dubcek lost his seat on the party's ruling presidium and will also lose his post as chairman of the federal assembly. Dubcek, however, was not dropped from the central committee, which suggests that Husak's views prevailed over those of the extremists on what was the major issue to be resolved by the plenum. Dubcek's replacement on the presidium, moreover, is the relatively moderate Josef Kempny. The latter, also named a deputy premier in the federal government, now is one of only four men who hold seats on both the party presidium and secretariat. He presumably will be one of the most powerful political figures in Czechoslovakia.

The new federal government appointed over the weekend is also relatively moderate in character. Most of those men replaced were involved in economic affairs, and presumably were dropped because of the poor performance of the economy rather than for strictly political reasons. Premier Cernik, Defense Minister Dzur, and Foreign Minister Marko, who have been under political attack, retained their positions in the new government.

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Chile: Recent friendly gestures toward Communist countries are probably designed to refurbish the leftist credentials of the Christian Democratic government.

On 20 September, the Chilean ambassador in Moscow decorated a Soviet scientist, a cosmonaut, and the president of the Soviet-Chilean friendship society. In featuring the story the Chilean Communist Party newspaper called this the first time Soviet citizens had been decorated by a Latin American government other than Cuba. Ambassador Pinochet's presentation speech seemed designed to elicit official Soviet support for the Frei government's policy of Chileanization of the copper industry, a policy the Chilean Communists are still attacking as a giveaway.

On 23 September, Foreign Minister Valdes announced a new Chilean policy in the Pacific which includes support for Communist China's membership in the UN.

The Chilean minister of mines, meanwhile, is promoting joint venture agreements on mineral explorations with countries of Eastern Europe. He says that an accord with the Yugoslavs is firm, and that he is optimistic about one with the Romanians.

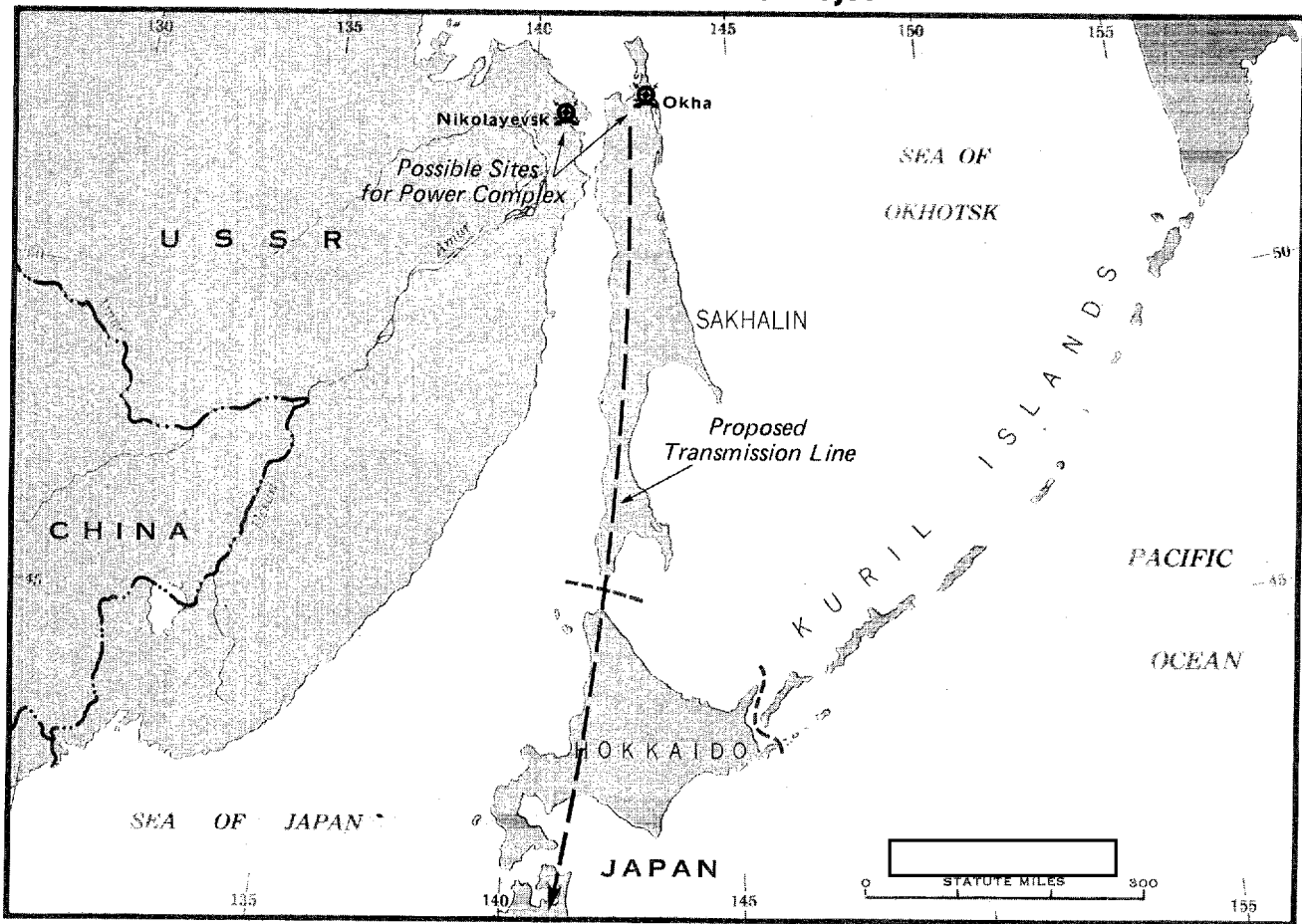
The Christian Democratic Party would like to regain the leftist approval won by President Frei's immediate recognition of European Communist countries in 1964. Party strategists probably feel they have a chance of further splitting the squabbling Chilean Marxist forces before they can unite behind a presidential candidate.

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Japanese and Soviets Discuss Joint Thermal Electric Project



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USSR-Japan: A consortium of Japanese electric companies is in Moscow discussing the joint development of a large electrical project in Siberia.

Under the plan, first proposed by the Soviets last year, a complex of thermal power stations would be built either on the northern tip of Sakhalin or across the Tatar Strait in Siberia. Japan would supply the technical expertise and thermal power plants worth about \$550 million in return for some 6,000 megawatts of electricity annually. The electricity would be supplied by a high-powered transmission line traversing Sakhalin and Hokkaido.

The project would be completed by 1980, at which time it would supply Japan with about five percent of its estimated power needs. The Soviets would benefit by obtaining Japanese capital to develop Siberia.

Although the Japanese believe that Siberian power would be less costly than that produced in Japan, a number of technical and financial problems still have to be solved. In the past, Japan has been reluctant to undertake such ambitious Siberian projects. Furthermore, Japanese estimates of Siberian petroleum and other fuel resources for the power plants may be somewhat optimistic.

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